

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BELGRA 04859 241130Z

10

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 /067 W

----- 006424

O 241015Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7499

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 4859

FROM SCRANTON FOR LEWIS (IO)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN XG YO OVIP

SUBJ: SCRANTON-MINIC MEETING - PUERTO RICO

1. GOVERNOR SCRANTON MET WITH YUGOSLAVIA'S FOREIGN SECRETARY MILOS MINIC AT SVETI STEFAN JUL 23, 1976. DURING THEIR MEETING THEY DISCUSSED PUERTO RICO.

2. SCRANTON STRESSED TO MINIC THAT THE PUERTO RICANS COULD OPT FOR ANY STATUS (INDEPENDENCE OR OTHER) THEY SHOULD CHOSE. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE PHILIPPINES, HAWAII, AND PUERTO RICO EACH HAD CHOSEN A DIFFERENT COURSE. THE U.S.G. AND PEOPLE, HOWEVER, WERE MOST CONCERNED LEST ANY OUTSIDE GROUP INTERFERE WITH WHAT WE CONSIDER AN INTERNAL U.S. AFFAIR. SCRANTON REFERRED TO OUR AIDE MEMOIRE LEFT WITH DEPUTY FOREIGN SECRETARY MOJSOV EARLIER IN THE DAY. SCRANTON URGED THAT YUGOSLAVIA SUPPORT OUR POSITION ON PUERTO RICO AT COLOMBO AND IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24. SCRANTON WARNED THAT, IF PUERTO RICO REACHED THE UNGA, WE WOULD WALK OUT.

3. MINIC SAID THAT NUMEROUS CARIBBEAN AND OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES HAD SHARED THEIR VIEW WITH YUGOSLAVIA THAT THE PUERTO RICANS HAD NOT EXERCISED THEIR RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BELGRA 04859 241130Z

THESE POWERS CONSIDERED THAT ALL THE PUERTO RICAN REFERENDUMS

HELD TO DATE HAD BEEN HELD UNDER U.S. SUPRVISION LONG AFTER RPT AFTER THE U.S. HAD TAKEN POSSESSION OF PUERTO RICO. MINIC SAID THAT A NEW REFERENDUM HELD UNDER UN SUPERVISION WOULD RESOLVE THE PROBLEM AND GET RID OF IT. HE EXPRESSED YUGOSLAVIA'S VIEW THAT PUERTO RICO'S PEOPLE INDEED DESIRED ASSOCIATION WITH THE U.S., BUT THAT FROM A PURELY "LEGAL" POINT OF VIEW UN-SUPERVISED REFERENDUM WAS NEEDED TO CONFIRM PUERTO RICO'S EXIT FROM THE STATUS OF A NON-SELF GOVERNING TERRITORY.

4. WHEN SCRANTON STRESSED THAT A WHOLE SERIES OF PUERTO RICAN REFERENDUMS COULD NOT BE IGNORED AND CONTRASTED THIS WITH THE SITUATION RE THE BALTIC STATES, MINIC REMAINED SILENT.

5. RECOMMENDATION: MINIC'S THESIS WAS CLEAR THAT IT WAS NOT CUBA ALONE AMONG THE NONALIGNED WHICH SUPPORTED "SELF-DETERMINATION" FOR PUERTO RICO, AND THUS BY IMPLICATION AT LEAST QUESTIONED THE UNGA'S 1953 ACTION REMOVING PUERTO RICO FROM THE LIST OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES. HE CLAIMED TOO THAT NONALIGNED ACTION ON PUERTO RICO AS OUTLINED ABOVE REFLECTS VIEWS OF THE LATIN AMERICAN MEMBERSHIP. ("THEY MAY TELL YOU OTHERWISE BUT THAT'S WHAT THEY ALL RPT ALL TELL US AT ALL NON-ALIGNED MEETINGS"). ACCORDINGLY, STRONG RECOMMENDATION IS MADE THAT WE ACT URGENTLY RPT URGENTLY TO SOUND OUT LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS ON THIS KEY MATTER FOR COLOMBO MEETING, COMMITTEE OF 24, AND UNGA. THE YUGOSLAVS ALLEGED THAT ALL RPT ALL THE LATIN AMERICAN NONALIGNED MEMBERS AND OBSERVERS, INCLUDING ARGENTINA (MEMBER) AND BRAZIL (OBSERVER), HAD SHARED THIS VIEW WITH YUGOSLAVIA THAT "SELF-DETERMINATION" WAS NEEDED IN PUERTO RICO. SILBERMAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BELGRA04859
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760286-0104
From: BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760725/aaaaavkd.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <14 SEP 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SCRANTON-MINIC MEETING - PUERTO RICO
TAGS: OVIP, XG, YO, US, UN, (SCRANTON, WILLIAM W), (MINIC, MILOS)
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006